



## The Engineering Institute of Canada Honorary Member Citation - 2003

***Mr. Edwin Cecil Webster*** – *Nominated by the Canadian Society of Civil Engineering*

*During a lifetime of engineering achievement Mr. Webster helped to create about 2900 kilometers of highways in British Columbia, much of it in very mountainous terrain, unique to B.C. His career began as a chainman on a survey crew for the B.C. Department of Public Works in 1929. Subsequently he became responsible for surveys associated with highways for Yale Road/Abbotsford, the Trans-Canada Highway west of Hope, Scott Road/Peace Arch, Abbotsford/Matsqui, Cranbrook/Fernie, the Cariboo Highway, and the Parsnip River/Azouzetta Lake on the Peace River Highway. All of this work was done prior to and during the world war era, for which a hearing impairment prevented him from direct service with the military.*

*Subsequent to the war years, Mr. Webster assumed increasingly senior management roles within the Department of Highways. On the John Hart Highway he was appointed Divisional Engineer, where he undertook court representations for the John Hart Highway Settlement Act of 1949, acting as Principal witness for the province.*

*In 1949, Mr. Webster was appointed Assistant to the Senior Construction Engineer for the Department in Victoria. He then supervised contracts on several new major highways including Peace River, Northern Trans-Provincial, Southern Trans-Provisional and the Cariboo Highway. He represented B.C. in Ottawa for establishing design standards for implementation of the Trans-Canada Highway Agreement in B.C.*

*In 1957 Mr. Webster was appointed the Director of Construction supervising all four Regional Construction Engineers in the province. In this role he was a creative force with a management style that emphasized innovative engineering and staff training for personnel in geology, soil and rock mechanics, hydraulics and structural engineering. Mr. Webster has been responsible for the professional development of many of British Columbia's Professional Engineers and Technicians. Their verbal and written support is a testament to his professional capability.*

*During Mr. Webster's tenure as Director of Construction, major work was completed on the very difficult Fraser Canyon section including seven tunnels, China Bar, Hell's Gate, Alexandra Ferrabee, Sailor Bar, Saddle Rock and Yale. Several of these had unique problems during construction, which Mr. Webster solved with the assistance of specialists, and the perseverance of his staff.*

*Subsequent to retirement from the Department of Highways, Mr. Webster undertook a similar role, Director of Construction, with Willis, Cunliffe & Tait, an engineering consulting firm in Victoria. In an advisory role he was able to influence a new generation of young engineers.*

*Ladies and Gentlemen, we honour today one of those pioneering figures in the engineering development of British Columbia.*

*As our newest Honorary Member of the Engineering Institute of Canada - - Mr. Edwin Cecil Webster*